

R E V I E W.

Saturday, January 17. 1713.

I Gave you in my last, a short View of the Fury and Barbarity of the *War in the North*, how it came at first to be carried on with so much Animosity and Inhumanity, if some Lists which I have heard of are True, behold a Scetch of the Dreadful Account which some Princes in the World, who call themselves Christians, have to answer for; I do not vouch the Account, but I have seen Authorities for some of it, and I fear, a great deal of it is too true.

- In *Livonia* and *Ingria*,
 - 117 Towns and Villages entirely Burnt and Destroyed.
 - 1263 Towns and Villages plundered and made Desolate.
 - 15173 Women and Children strip'd naked in the extremest Winter, Ravish'd, Abused and Tortured; most of whom perished, particularly, during the Campaigns at *Dorpt*, and at *Wybourg*.
 - 2000 People as well Men as Women, tortured to Death.
 - 100000 Of the Inhabitants, carried away quite thro' *Muscovy*, and sold to the *Turks*.

Who can read this without Horror and Amazement! and what kind of Christians must they be called, who could either act or permit those things to be acted?

Well, all this was before the King of Sweden's Overthrow at the Battle of *Pultowa*, after which, the Plague finishing the Miseries of *Livonia*, it fell entirely into the Hand of the *Muscovite*, and *Ingria* also, after the taking of *Riga*, and *Wybourg*, and they remain to this Day, tho' Ruin'd and Desolated, you may be sure, at a horrid rate.

The King of Sweden, tho' disabled by his Disaster, has given great Tokens of his being still full of Repentment, and I cannot say that I believe either his Desires or his Resolutions, nay, or his Hopes, to change both the *Pole* and the *Muscovite*, are at all abated, if they were, he would never suffer Europe to run the Risque of making the *Turks* Victorious over the Northern Nations, and bring an Army of Infi-

dels, perhaps, to the Shores of the *Baltick*: — When at the late Action in *Moldavia* the *Czar* was worsted, taken in his own Snare, and might have been entirely ruin'd; how did the K... of S... n Regret the Grand Viziers Accommodation with him? — and if his Swedish Majesties Resentments should ever yet meet with Success, which I must own I dread, while it is to be brought about by the *Half Moon* and the *Turbant*, who knows what Distress the Nations of the North may yet feel?

Mean time, the Cruel part has been now acted over again in *Pomerania*, where the Accounts printed by Authority of the Swedish Government, give a dreadful History of the barbarous usage the poor Inhabitants of that Country suffer from the *Muscovites*: — While this has been doing, and three impotent Princes, I think I may justly call them so, have with united Armies been three Years masters of that Ruin'd Country, and yet have not been able to lay Siege to one strong Town in it, while this is doing, I say, the Vigilant Swedes having repelled the Invasion of *Sibonen*, and under that great General Count *Steinbock*, given the *Danes* a fatal Overthrow at *Helsingburg*, having struggled with innumerable Enemies round them, the Plague among them, and their Provisions and Stores lost at Sea, yet landing in *Rugen*, and entering *Pomerania*, they venture to take the Field; March into *Mecklenburg*, face three great Armies, the *Muscovite*, *Dane*, and *Saxon*, amounting to 60000 Men, the Swedes but 16000, — They attack and entirely defeat one of these Armies, as we may say, in sight of the other Two, and are now gotten into the Rich, Plentiful Country of *Holstein*, and have all the King of Denmark's Dominions, on the Main Land, at their Mercy.

And now they are paying their Enemies in kind, and have entirely destroy'd a Beautiful and Flourishing Town, full of Wealth, and prodigiously stored with Merchandizes, and the poor Inhabitants are turn'd into the Fields, naked and ruin'd, in the midst of a severe Winter, for the *Elbe* was frozen over when it was done, and where many of them perished in the Cold.

It is true, the Swedes urge in their Defence, two Arguments, that do, in the Language of the Times, justify

justify this proceeding ; 1. The Magazines of their Enemies Provisions stor'd up here. 2. Reprisals for the Ravages of the *Danes* and *Muscovites* in *Livonia*, and the burning of *Staden* by the *Danes*.

I will not enter here into the Question, whether by the Laws of War this be the allow'd Custom, as the only way to prevent these Things for the Future ; I know several Wars have begun in this manner, as between the *Spaniard* and the *Dutch*, the *Spaniards* hang'd all their Prisoners as Rebels, and the *Dutch* drowned all the *Spaniards*, they took, in return, as Murderers ; and so, in this War, the Armies of King *Philip*, hang'd the *Miquelets* in *Aragon* and *Catalonia*, and they, again, cut the Throats of the *Spaniards*, till both sides grew weary of this kind of Doings.

But if the *Czar* does not think fit to hearken to the Remonstrances of the King of *Denmark*, in this Case, and suppose he should continue to Ravage and Burn in *Pomerania*, and, suppose he should hang up Count *Piper*, and about 17000 *Swedes* he has at *Muscovy*, whom he took at the Battle of *Pultowa*, as for Count *Piper*, if he sacrificed him to the Ghost of Count *Patakull*, I believe, few here would reproach the *Czar* for that. But, as for the rest, should the *Czar*, I say, provok'd by this Usage of Count *Steinbock*, fly out into a *Muscovia-Rage*, i. e. a Fit of Cruelty, which they say, is the natural Infirmity of the Passions in that part of the World, and should he lay *Pomerania* in Ashes, after this, what would be the Dreadful Consequence? Read Count *Steinbock's* Letter, *Just as many Towns as you burn in Pomerania, so many I'll burn in Holstein*; and what next? *Just as many Swedes and Pipers as you hang in Muscovy, so many Holsteiners, so many Danish Generals, so many Prisoners I'll hang in Holstein*.

What a horrid Scene will these Men present to the World all this while ; what a War is this, and what People are these?—Lord, What Monsters are Men, when left to the Government of their own Frenzy ! Is this a Protestant War ! Are these Nations of Christians ! And where must these things necessarily End !

Next, let us enquire into another Case, for *Accidents of War are not to be accounted for* ; What is this Count *Steinbock* that he dares to do this with an Army double to him in Strength, just at his Heels ? I have been told, and believe it to be true, that Prince *Eugene* says, Count *Steinbock* is the great-

est Master of a Field-Battle in the World : But let it be as it will, he may be mastered, he may be numbered, over-power'd, and he may be beaten—and should that happen, how would the *Danes* and *Muscovites* treat them, what Quarter would they get ? To be sure, Whenever Count *Steinbock* fights for his Life, as well as for Victory ; for himself, as well as for his Master : Not a Soul of his Army would be suffer'd to live, if once they should be beaten ; Even in that Case he has run a terrible Risque ; and let them fight when they will, I warrant, you hear they give no quarter on either side at least, for some time.

To what a pass then, is this War come, and will they not all the Christian Powers of Europe lay their Hands to the Work of obliging these enraged People to be quiet ?

I do confess it is something difficult to me to know which side to wish should Conquer, I must own I cannot see any Satisfaction in the *Muscovites* increasing Power, for many Reasons.

Yet King *Augustus* is a Prince of so many good Qualities, and so justly valued and beloved by that know him, that notwithstanding his unjustifiable Change of his Religion, I cannot look on his Fall in with any tolerable View ; No, Neither can I, his *German* Dominions, which must fall with him, and where the People are all Protestants.

No Man that remembers the Reason why all the Territories of the *Swede*, in the Empire were given him, (viz.) That he might be a Check to the Eminent Popish Powers in *Germany*, and a powerful Support to the Protestant Interest, established the Treaty of *Westphalia*, of which he is Guarantied, can with any Satisfaction see these Dominions of the *Swedes* ravished from them, on any Account whatsoever.

Yet, no Man can without Horror, think of the King of *Sweden's* coming down into *Poland*, at the Head of a *Turkish* Army, and of the Protestant Cause being restored by the Power of *Mahomet* : An Army of Barbarians, made Victorious by the Assistance of the *Swedish* Interest, and brought into the Heart of *Germany*, may grow too strong for all *Swedish* Power ; ay, and for all the Powers of Europe, especially as they are now divided, to drive out.

These are sad Considerations, I shall make farther use of them in their Place.

In our last, p. 92. col. 2. l. 23. r. Captivity.